

Eastgate Community Association

November 13, 2019 from 7 to 8:30 pm

Minutes taken by Leslie Geller

**Next Meeting – Wednesday December 11, 2019 from 7-8:30pm at John L. Scott
11040 Main Street #200, Bellevue, WA 98004**

Attendees: Tim Auld, Kristi Auld, Leslie Geller, Dee Ann Perea, Micki Larimer, Lara Litov, Tzachi Litov

Action Items: **Tzachi, Lara, Tim, Kristi** have action items.

Kickoff Event

Discuss & decide on what is needed for ramp up to our Kickoff event

- When & Where

Carol Ross has tentatively secured **Tuesday March 31st** from 6-9pm for us at the South Bellevue Community Center (SBCC). We are all OK with this location, date, and time. **Tzachi** will ask the SBCC if it would be possible to have some sort of child care so hopefully it would be easier for families with young children to come.

- Kickoff Agenda

We talked about needing a hook, e.g., a celebrity or someone who people will know and could help draw more attendees. In a prior meeting we'd suggested that the event topic could be about getting a new park in Eastgate. We all agreed to have the park be the primary topic of the kickoff. Jennifer Robertson is the City Council liaison to the Parks & Community Services Board, which advises the Council on parks and open space issues. Micki will ask Jennifer Robertson to be a speaker. As of the writing of these Minutes, Micki already did, and Jennifer accepted. We also discussed having more than one speaker at the kickoff. Lara thinks that we should have a speaker about safety and security, since this is one of our pillars and an important topic in our community. Lara suggested Assistant Chief of Police Carl Kleinknecht or Chief Steve Mylett. **Lara** will ask the police department about getting a speaker for the kickoff.

- Kickoff Promotion

We will disseminate flyers including at Newport Way Library and Safeway, perhaps other local businesses. We know mailbox-posted flyers are effective, if folks are willing to do that. We'll post to NextDoor and Facebook, and email our list. Importantly, Carol Ross will arrange a postcard mailing by the City to every residential address in Eastgate. See attached example.

- Other Kickoff Items

We touched on other event details such as an emcee, presentation materials, and food. We will discuss and decide these at December's ECA meeting.

Board of Directors

Tzachi raised an idea which engendered robust discussion. We need to have formal voting for board members and adoption of the bylaws before we are an official organization. We also need to register the ECA with the state as a non-profit. All of this will give our organization credibility with our community including businesses, and with the City and the Council. We have final bylaws but we don't yet have board members. We have to list our board members on the state's registration form, but not our bylaws. Tzachi (and Michelle) prefer to not wait till the kickoff at the end of March to vote on our officers and board members, which had been our plan. Tzachi wonders about emailing our mailing list

now, asking who wants to be involved as an officer or board member, and describing the voting process. We also should post this at the library and SBCC, on Facebook and NextDoor.

The plan we came up with is:

Tzachi will draft an email soon outlining the process, for a small-group review. **Tzachi** will send out to our full email list, as well as our other regular communication vehicles. We will solicit names of potential officers and board directors. We will use part of our December 11 monthly meeting for this topic. Then at our January 8 meeting we will vote in our initial slate of officers/board members, and also will adopt the bylaws as they are written. To start us off on officers, Tzachi is willing to be president for the first two years, and Leslie is willing to be secretary for the first 2 years, so we ensure some continuity and maintenance of "institutional knowledge." All other positions would be one-year terms. For additional communication, **Lara** will ask Carol Ross if it's possible to send a special email about our the January 8 meeting to Eastgate residents who have signed up to receive City emails.

General Promotion of ECA

Tzachi said that we're lacking people to be a part of the group. **Anything that anyone can do to promote our group would be very helpful.** Please talk to your neighbors! We discussed putting out strategically-placed sandwich boards the week prior to our meetings. Dee Ann recommends putting a sandwich board on her high-traffic corner before each meeting. Another idea is to have a sign in each of our front yards that says Meeting this Wednesday so it's a perennial sign. A perennial sign works only if we have a set meeting location. See the penultimate topic below for more info on that. **Tzachi** will contact FedEx about making the corrugated plastic signs to put on the metal stands, that **Tim and Kristi** can get and provide.

Getting a Park in Eastgate

Micki gave the update. Micki met with Pam Johnson, one of the people who got parks in Bridle Trails, who provided helpful guidance. It will take a lot of time and real commitment and dedication to get a park. She recommends that we approach the process by breaking things down into short term goals, vs. having just the overarching goal of getting a new park. We should connect with the Parks Department and the Parks Board before we go to the Council. We should communicate with them regularly and in detail. For starters, we should find out what people in our community want in a park. We can solicit ideas at our kickoff on March 31 for what they want, through conversations and via a standup board for neighbors to write ideas on stickies. The Parks Dept. may be able to help us with community outreach. The more information we can bring to the Parks Dept. and the Parks Board about what the community wants, the better.

Pam Johnson noted that Eastgate is listed in the City's [Park Plan](#) and [budget](#) in a loose way.

The Plan: On p. 38, it shows the places in need of parks. Moreover, Pg. 39 says **“Eastgate – This neighborhood includes a significant number of recently incorporated residential households south of I-90. This area is underserved by both park and trail access, creating a need for additional neighborhood park facilities.”**

The Budget: P-AD-82 **Park & Open Space Acquisition** says “This project provides resources to acquire park and open space property throughout the City. The overall goal is to acquire land that complements the existing park system, to increase public access to the waterfront, preserve open space and natural areas, protect water quality, increase trail connectivity and create opportunities for new neighborhood parks. **The 2016 Parks & Open Space System Plan identifies needs**

throughout Bellevue to provide additional parks and open space. Specific acquisition targets include the Eastgate neighborhood,

Pam Johnson said that it may be harder to get a new park in Eastgate because the land isn't readily/easily available, which it was in Bridle Trails. Because of this challenge, Pam said that getting a new park in Eastgate may not be a high priority for the City's Parks teams. So our job is to regularly raise the visibility and priority of our park to the Parks teams. Micki has wrestled with where is a good place for a new Eastgate park because of the elongated borders of Eastgate. Bridle Trails ended up getting two parks for the different areas of that neighborhood. Something to think about.

Tangential discussion at the meeting: Dee Ann (who runs preschools) noted, from her many conversations over the years with parents of young children, the importance of nature in children's play and experience, including education, such as Nature School. Her point is that a "nature park" could be a less expensive alternative to a park with big, expensive metal toy structures.

2020 ECA Event Calendar

As part of our preparation for the March kickoff, we want to have several events planned for 2020. We discussed these ideas and agreed on #2, 4, and 5.

1. Emergency Preparedness Training with Bellevue Fire Dept. – Maybe next year because we want to do a CPR in 2020.
2. CPR/BLS (basic life support) Class – We love the idea of a CPR class. We think this should occur in the fall timeframe. **Lara** will talk to Fire Dept. about arranging a CPR class for us.
3. Potluck meal – Michelle Wannamaker again expressed via email (she could not attend the meeting) that she's not keen on a potluck because she thinks new people would be less likely to attend a potluck vs. an event where food/snacks are provided. Michelle's opinion is that we are a group of people that they don't know and that can be daunting to consider preparing food & bringing it to an event with people they don't know.
4. Afternoon or brunch, similar to our June 8 brunch – We like the idea of "recreating" our June 8 community gathering. We could do a combo again where we bring stuff and reach out to businesses for donations. We decided to call this the Eastgate Spring Fling, and it would be an annual event dovetailing with our annual member meeting in May (per our bylaws).
5. Movie Night – We like this idea, too. This would be a summer event where we project a movie somewhere in the neighborhood.

ECA Monthly Meeting Location

Dee Ann spoke with an SBCC employee about using SBCC room for our meetings. The employee was encouraging about the room being available mid-week. The cost is \$45/hour. Tim recommends having a business sponsor each meeting to cover the cost. He thinks finding sponsors will not be too difficult, starting with his company, John L. Scott Realty. **Tim** will reach out to SBCC about renting the room on the second Wednesday of the month.

Punted to December's Meeting

Deciding whether people in Eastgate community want to officially "join" the ECA (only members can vote) and how to do that.